



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

What does CERT do?

CERT is about readiness, people helping people, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. CERT is a realistic approach to emergency and disaster situations where citizens will be initially on their own and their actions can make a difference.

What is CERT training?

This national FEMA program is taught by trained instructors. It is a combination of text book instruction and hands on experience. You will learn to work as a team as well as with a “buddy” to evaluate and deal with situations which can occur with any disaster. There is a simulated disaster at the end of the course which allows you to practice the skills you have learned. There are no physical requirements to be a CERT team member. There are jobs for every adult regardless of age or ability.

Through CERT training, citizens can manage:

- ▲ Utilities (gas and electric services) by learning when and how to safely turn them off.
- ▲ Put out small fires, using fire extinguishers.
- ▲ Search for and rescue victims safely using cribbing techniques.
- ▲ Triage the victims, control bleeding, treat for shock and provide basic medical aid.
- ▲ Organize themselves and spontaneous volunteers to be effective in aiding the victims.

Why is CERT necessary?

Following a major disaster, such as an earthquake, tornado, or flooding, fire trucks and medical services will not be able to meet ALL of the demand for the emergency services that people expect to receive by calling 911. Factors including the number of victims, communication failures, and road blockages will prevent emergency services agencies from operating normally. It is possible that many individuals and neighborhoods will be cut off from outside support. **Due to this fact, for the period immediately following a disaster—often up to 72 hrs (3 days) or longer—individuals, households, and neighborhoods may need to rely on themselves and each other for food, water, first aid, shelter, sanitation, and any other life saving and life sustaining needs.**

How did CERT start?

Following a Mexico City earthquake, 100 untrained and spontaneous volunteers lost their lives while attempting to save 800 people. In 1985, Los Angeles City Fire Department created the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept to train citizens in life saving skills with emphasis on decision making, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. This training program helps citizens understand their responsibility in preparing for any disaster, as well as increase their ability to **safely** help themselves, their family, and their neighbors. Since 1993, when CERT training was made available nationally by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), communities in 41 states and Puerto Rico have conducted CERT training.

CERT Training

Course Overview

The CERT training course consists of 21 hours of instruction. Classes are taught by emergency responders, including firefighters, emergency medical, and law enforcement personnel from the community.

The course includes the following topics:

<u>Emergency Preparedness:</u>	Introduction to disasters specific to the community, and the impact of disaster on infrastructure.
<u>Fire Suppression and Safety:</u>	Identifying and reducing potential fire hazards and basic fire suppression.
<u>Emergency Medical Operations Part I:</u>	Treatment strategies for life-threatening conditions and principles of triage.
<u>Emergency Medical Operations Part II:</u>	Head-to-toe patient assessment and treatment for various injuries.
<u>Light Search & Rescue Operations:</u>	Techniques for sizing up and searching, lifting, cribbing and removing victims; rescue safety.
<u>CERT Organization:</u>	Identify CERT organization, how CERTs interrelate with ICS and explain documentation requirements.
<u>Disaster Psychology & Team Organizations:</u>	The post-disaster emotional environment will be discussed. CERT organization, decision-making, and documentation.
<u>Terrorism:</u>	A brief overview of terrorism weapons. Identifying targets in an area and discussing time-distance-shielding.
<u>Final Exercise:</u>	Disaster simulation realistic to your community.

CERT Training Teaches Participants to:

- ✦ Describe the types of hazards most likely to affect their homes and community.
- ✦ Perform head-to-toe assessments.
- ✦ Describe the function of CERT and their roles in immediate response.
- ✦ Select and set up a treatment area.
- ✦ Take steps to prepare themselves for disaster.
- ✦ Employ basic treatments for various wounds.
- ✦ Identify and reduce potential fire hazards in their homes and workplaces.
- ✦ Identify planning and size-up requirements for potential search and rescue situations.
- ✦ Apply basic fire suppression strategies, resources, and safety measures to extinguish a burning liquid.
- ✦ Describe the most common techniques for searching a structure.
- ✦ Apply techniques for opening airways, controlling bleeding, and treating shock.
- ✦ Use safe techniques for debris removal and victim extrication.
- ✦ Conduct triage under simulated conditions.
- ✦ Describe ways to protect rescuers during search and rescue.



Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training Application

The CERT Training class will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from September 2 – 18, 2008 from 6:30 pm-10:30 pm at the Westfield Public Safety Building. You must attend **ALL** classes.

Only one applicant per form. Please print.

Team Location (Subdivision/Neighborhood):		
Applicant Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Home Phone:	Work Phone:	Cell Phone:
E-mail Address:		
Relevant Training/Experience: _____ _____ _____ _____		
<p>Please drop by or mail completed form to: City of Westfield Fire Department Attention: Megan Vawter 17535 Dartown Road Westfield, IN 46074</p> <p><i>ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN AUGUST 18, 2008.</i></p> <p>If you are selected to participate in the CERT Training program, you will be notified by August 22, 2008.</p> <p>For more information on the CERT program, please visit www.indiana-cert.org or call 317.896.2704</p>		

**CITY OF WESTFIELD
COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM PROGRAM**

HOLD HARMLESS/PERMISSION REQUEST

I, _____, hereby request permission to participate in the Fall 2008 Westfield Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes. I understand that this training will involve active physical participation, which includes a potential risk of personal injury and/or personal property damage. I make this request with full knowledge of the possibility of personal injury and/or personal property damage. Further, I have read and understand the program outline that describes all class sections and the associated activities.

I agree to hold the Fire Department, City of Westfield, and Hamilton County, and their agents and personnel, harmless from any and all claims, actions, suits, and/or injury that I may suffer and which may arise as a result of my participation in the above mentioned class.

I agree to follow the rules established by the instructors, and to exercise reasonable care while participating in the CERT program. I understand that if I fail to follow the instructor's rules and regulations or if I fail to exercise reasonable care, I can be administratively removed from the program.

By executing this release I certify that I have read this release in its entirety, understand all of its terms and have had any questions regarding the release or its effect satisfactorily answered. I sign this release freely and voluntarily.

Signature

Date

Emergency Contact Name

Emergency Contact Number

Comments:

Signature of Instructor

Date